

Stamford School Readiness Council (SRC)
Education Committee Meeting
Monday, December 5, 2011
12:30 p.m.
UConn Stamford

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance:

Karen Brennan	Stamford Discovery Coordinator, United Way of Western CT
Mary Budawich	EC Consultant, FAEYC
Anne Farrell, Chair	Associate Professor, Human Development & Family Studies, UConn
Bridget Fox	Chair, Stamford School Readiness Council
Sadie Green Carter	President/Director, Mother's Little Helper
Jennifer Hallissey	Vice President, Education, United Way of Western CT
Michele Sabia	Curriculum Associate/Early Childhood Education, Stamford Public Schools
Margo Sandahl	Instructional Coordinator, Stamford Public Schools
Dori Walker	Instructional Coordinator, Stamford Public Schools
Karen Wenz	Director, First Presbyterian Church Nursery School

This summary serves to recap the progress made to date around the planned professional development conference in the fall of 2012.

A small sub-committee consisting of Anne Farrell, Bridget Fox, Joan Parris, Rosalie Witt, and Mary Budawich conferred on conference details via e-mail and phone throughout October and November. A proposal was drafted and shared with the committee in advance of the meeting.

In sum, the Stamford School Readiness Council (SRC) has established an early childhood professional development partnership that operates through the Education Committee and includes the Fairfield County Association for the Education of Young Children (FCAEYC), The United Way of Western Connecticut, Norwalk Community College, the Norwalk SRC, the University of Connecticut, the Stamford Preschool Director's Group, and Childcare Learning Centers (CLC).

The partnership plans to co-sponsor a major professional development (PD) program in fall 2012. A speaker of national renown, Judy Jablon has been hired to serve as the inaugural presenter for this annual conference. Ms. Jablon will support and lead a full day of PD for EC providers. She will offer two consecutive days of training, both in the form of half-day workshops to groups of 200, followed by small afternoon breakout sessions led by members of CT early childhood community.

The partnership envisions a one-day pre-conference event for these EC community leaders. The pre-conference will include a facilitated conversation about community professional development priorities and the formative development of breakout sessions. The pre-conference will also prepare leadership-level EC professionals to facilitate training. Support for this partnership will bring immediate benefit to teachers, ensure that all major area EC programs

receive the same training opportunity, facilitate critical conversations among EC leaders, and galvanize a commitment to ongoing professional development.

Since the Education Committee met in December, great progress has been made:

- Judy Jablon is confirmed for October 9 and 10. A contract has been signed and her \$3,000 down payment will be funded from the Stamford Discovery/United Way of Western Connecticut State Department of Education grant.
- Judy has agreed to lead a Director's/Leaders Group at the end of each day where she will work with a small group of preschool directors/administrators who sign up for a "Next Steps" session with her. The conference will run from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. with the "Next Steps" session running from 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- CLC has agreed to contribute \$2,000 and has committed to send 140 teachers/staff personnel to the October 9 date.
- Mary Budawich presented the proposal to the FAEYC board and they unanimously approved a \$2,500 contribution. In return FAEYC will use their website to post a "save the date" notice, and will be given early registration access and a discounted rate to the October 10 date.
- A save-the-date will be created and distributed to CLC, the preschool director's group, and FAEYC. Day 1 (October 9) is reserved for Stamford (CLC's 140 and then 60 others) and Day 2 (October 10) will be open to the community. At this time we don't have a specific title for the conference, so the flyer will focus on Judy Jablon and her work. The Committee tentatively discussed making sure her talk connects to the pre-school frameworks.

Focus Group Study

Committee members are encouraged to send any feedback on the focus group questions to Anne. The study is moving forward based on the proposed timeline. Cristin and Anne submitted a 42-page proposal to the IRB. In addition, Anne has recruited two other students to assist with the project.

There will be a need to recruit and train several moderators, who will have to take a brief online "course" on the rights of human participants in research (1-3 hours) as well as attend a live training.

Anne asked committee members to please contact individuals who might be willing to serve as facilitators and to ask them if they are also willing to complete the online course and live training to be conducted by Sonja Ahuja.

Anne will provide an update at the next meeting or earlier.

NOTE: Our next meeting is Monday, January 23 at UConn Stamford from 12:30-2:00 p.m.